

Message Text

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R 092335Z JAN 74

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

COMIDEASTFOR MANAMA

INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

USCINCEUR

SECDEF

CINCUSNAVEUR

CNO WASHDC

CINCUSAREUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 004966

E.O.: 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, BA

SUBJ: MIDEASTFORCE AND BAHRAIN SCHOOL

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

REF: (A) KUWAIT 4224, (B) JIDDA 5335, (C) MANAMA 0729

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(D) MANAMA 0734

TEHRAN PASS KILLGORE

1. THOUGHTFUL ANALYSES IN REFTELS AND FROM COMIDEASTFOR INDICATE SHAYKH 'ISA ISSUED MIDEASTFOR TERMINATION NOTICE WITH REGRET AND WOULD PROBABLY SEIZE APPROPRIATE OPPORTUNITY TO RESCIND IT IF US-ARAB RELATIONS SHOW THEY ARE RETURNING TO NORMAL. HE WILL OF COURSE BE WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS AT GENEVA TALKS AND SUBSEQUENT REACTIONS OF OTHER ARAB LEADERS. IN BAHRAIN POLITICAL EQUATION, MOST IMPORTANT ARAB LEADER IN THIS REGARD IS UNQUESTIONABLY KING FAISAL.

2. FROM HERE, IT APPEARS MOST UNLIKELY SHAYKH 'ISA WOULD RESCIND MIDEASTFOR TERMINATION NOTICE BEFORE RECEIVING EITHER FAISAL'S EXPLICIT CONCURRENCE OR OBVIOUS PRO-U.S. SIGNAL FROM RIYADH SUCH AS LIFTING OF SAUDI OIL EMBARGO. HOWEVER, WE WOULD APPRECIATE VIEWS OF JIDDA, MANAMA, AND KUWAIT ON THIS POINT. WE WOULD BE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN JIDDA'S COMMENTS ON DESIRABILITY--IN VIEW

OF BILATERAL SAUDI-US RELATIONS--OF AMBASSADOR AKINS' RAISING ISSUE WITH FAISAL IN ORDER TO SOUND HIM OUT, AND PERHAPS TO OBTAIN ASSURANCES OF HIS NON-OBJECTION TO RETENTION OF MIDEASTFOR TO BE CONVEYED TO 'ISA EITHER BY USG OR SAG.

3. TIMING OF BAHRAIN RULER'S DECISION RE MIDEASTFOR MAY ALSO BE AFFECTED BY HIS NEED TO ASSURE SUFFICIENT SUPPORT FOR CONTINUATION OF U.S. NAVAL PRESENCE ON ISLAND AMONG MEMBERS OF NEWLY-ELECTED NATIONAL ASSEMBLY. IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, THREATENING RULER WITH CLOSING DOD SCHOOL UNLESS MIDEASTFOR REINSTATED WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND PROBABLY FUTILE, BECAUSE HE COULD NOT RPT NOT LET HIMSELF APPEAR TO SUBMIT TO US PRESSURE TACTICS.

4. ACCORDINGLY, WHILE NOT DESIRING TO FORCE ISSUE NOW, WE NEVERTHELESS INTEND TO KEEP ALIVE IN BAHRAINIS' MINDS DIRECT CONNECTION EXISTING BETWEEN DOD SCHOOL AND OUR NAVY'S PRESENCE ON ISLAND. DURING COMING WEEKS, WE HOPE THIS CONNECTION WILL SERVE AS POSITIVE INDUCEMENT IN GOB'S CONFIDENTIAL

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CONSIDERATION OF MIDEASTFOR QUESTION AND THAT ADVANTAGES ACCRUING TO BAHRAIN FROM SCHOOL'S OPERATION WILL PRESERVE RULER'S GOOD WILL AS HE WAITS FOR US-ARAB RELATIONS TO IMPROVE.

5. IN SUPPORT OF THIS APPROACH, DOD IS ATTEMPTING TO DE/ELOP RATIONALE THAT WILL PERMIT FAVORABLE DECISION HERE ON CONTINUATION OF SCHOOL FOR ONE ADDITIONAL ACADEMIC

YEAR (74-75). HOWEVER, YOU SHOULD BE AWARE THAT CURRENT CRITERIA FOR DOD SPONSORSHIP IS 20 ELIGIBLE DOD STUDENTS FOR AN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND 40 FOR A SECONDARY SCHOOL. MOREOVER, IF A DETERMINATION IS MADE TO CONTINUE WITHOUT REQUISITE NUMBER OF DOD STUDENTS, IT WILL BE REQUIRED THAT ALL COSTS BE RECOVERED. THIS HAS BEEN ESTIMATED AT APPROXIMATELY \$3000 PER STUDENT PER YEAR. WE HAVE ADDITIONALLY LEARNED FROM ARMY SCHOOL AUTHORITIES THAT IN ORDER TO REASSIGN TEACHERS OR FILL TEACHER VACANCIES AS WELL AS MEET THE REQUIREMENT FOR FISCAL AND LOGISTIC PLANNING, A DECISION ON THE SCHOOL'S CONTINUATION WILL BE REQUIRED IN NEAR FUTURE--PREFERABLY BY MID-FEBRUARY.

6. FOR MANAMA AND COMIDEASTFOR: THROUGH COORDINATED APPROACH, PLEASE INFORM RULER THAT IN RESPONSE TO HIS DESIRE FOR CONTINUATION DOD SCHOOL, STATE AND DEFENSE ARE EARNESTLY CONSIDERING WAYS IMPLEMENT PLANS FOR 1974-75 SCHOOL YEAR. IT MUST BE RECOGNIZED, HOWEVER, THAT STRINGENT US LAWS AND REGULATIONS WILL MAKE THIS DIFFICULT IF COMIDEASTFOR WITHDRAWS FROM BAHRAIN. WE HOPE TO BE ABLE TO INFORM GOB SHORTLY OF THE RESULTS OF

THESE DELIBERATIONS. FYI. RAMCO AND FIRST NATIONAL CITY BANK HAVE BEEN IN COMMUNICATION WITH OSD SOLICITING DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SUPPORT FOR CONTINUED OPERATION OF SCHOOL. THERE ARE UNDOUBTEDLY OTHER BUSINESS CONCERNS THAT ALSO FEEL STRONGLY ABOUT SCHOOL'S CONTINUING. IN THIS REGARD, SOME BENEFIT MAY BE DERIVED FROM LOW KEY RPT LOW KEY REITERATION TO APPROPRIATE CIRCLES OF EXPENSE AND DIFFICULTY OF OPERATING SCHOOL WITHOUT DOD SUPPORT, AS WELL AS DRAWING ATTENTION TO REVENUE AND OTHER ADVANTAGES WHICH ACCRUE TO LOCAL MERCHANTS AND BUSINESSMEN AS RESULT OF NAVY'S PRESENCE IN BAHRAIN.
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END FYI.

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